

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- April Program
- March Minutes
- P5 Activation
- What is a Spot Worth?
- 160m Antenna Project
- DX Contests

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Springtime. Flowers blooming. Cars covered in green pollen. Trees filling with leaves, making for difficult antenna rope routing through branches. I was fortunate to land a lucky shot down through a 65' oak tree a few weeks ago. Normally I shoot an arrow & fishing line up from the base but this time it called for a shot out from the perimeter and a (hopeful) landing close to the trunk. Glad that task is done and the doublet is back where it belongs. Glad too for the longer days keeping the higher bands open until after we get home from work.

Dayton is only a month away and looking forward to the show. Nothing on my shopping list but it's a good place to whet the appetite for our very own Huntsville Hamfest in August. Have you purchased your Banquet tickets yet? Banquet info will appear on the Hamfest website shortly and with it the announcement of a major (FTdx1200) door prize, so we could see a sellout. Get your ticket while they last.

A few weeks ago a four club members met for lunch at the new Golden Corral on University Drive. To say it's an improvement from our Ryan's meeting location would be a gross un-

derstatement. It's newer, cleaner, brighter, and the food's much better. Following this announcement and some debate at this upcoming meeting, we'll follow up with Golden Corral management to book the room for the May and future meetings. Please check next month's Longpath for definitive info for the meeting location.

With all the distractions of a farm greening up I've spent less time than usual at the radio this month. Still it's rewarding to pick a night to turn on the radio and work ZL7E on 15m RTTY for an ATNO. Has anyone tried RTTY Skimmer? I haven't – yet, but it's intriguing. Info at <http://www.walter-dallmeier.de/software-by-dl4rck/rckskimmer/>

73,

Mark N4BCD

Flex 6000 Signature Series

By Steve Conklin, AI4QR

The Flex Signature series of transceivers employs a direct sampling receiver architecture: direct from the antenna (through preselectors and maybe preamps) to bits. That's the one-sentence summary: Steve will fill in the details. Get to Ryan's around 6:00 for dinner, the business meeting at 7:00, and Steve's program no later than 7:30. See you there!



March NADXC Meeting Minutes

By Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Meeting opened by president Mark Brown, N4BCD. We had 23 in attendance with 2 additional guests.

2. DX Worked by club members etc.

a. Jim Spikes N4KH got E30FB in the log

b. Mark Brown N4BCD got E30FB & 3G0 in the log

c. John Stensby N5DF got 3G0 in the log

d. Johnny Winter KR4F got E30FB

e. Chuck Lewis N4NM got 3G0 in the log

f. Warren Alford KJ4RAQ due to his previous absence reported K1N on three bands

g. Gary Agranat WA2JQZ got FR1GV (Reunion Island)

h. Bob De Pierre K8KI got E30FB

i. Tom Duncan KG4CUY got E3, T8 and XW

j. Steve Werner AG4W for E3, 3G0

k. Bill Bathgate KD8IGK got JY4CI (Jordan)

3. Announcements:

a. I am pleased to announce membership is up dramatically, our total count now is 52 members. We currently have 43 dues paying memberships with 8 of those as family memberships, we now have catapulted past last year's membership rolls. We had budgeted \$465.00 in 2105 membership income and we now have \$764.00 in revenue, a 60% increase in income over last year (with three of those multiyear memberships).

b. We have started selling Hamfest Banquet tickets, so far 5 have been sold. Not a bad start this early in cycle. Look for changes in the web site during April so you can order tickets on line, I will have tickets with me at the meeting in April.

c. Ron Schafer N4VM was contacted

on possible maintenance on our repeater equipment. He will report back to us shortly. There have been reports of pops and crackles in the audio signal

d. In new business we discussed the proposed ARRL band plans. Look for the details on the ARRL web site or in QST. Please consider your input to this plan because now is the time to make your opinions known to the ARRL.

4. Our March Program:

M.D. Smith WA4DXP presented a program on mobile and portable operations, antennas and mounts. MD discussed the pro and cons of performance, costs and size versus with and wind load. The program has been posted on the HARC web site for anyone looking for a copy of this presentation.

5. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,700.47
Deposits	\$ 286.67
Withdrawal	\$ 00.00
Ending Balance.....	\$ 3,987.14

P5 Activation

Submitted by Mark Brown, N4BCD

From: <http://www.dx-world.net/activation-of-north-korea/>

On February 28th, DX-World.net broke the news that Dom 3Z9DX had written permission to operate amateur radio from a VERY wanted DXCC entity.

Today, we can reveal that entity is North Korea (P5).

Dom 3Z9DX explains he has received a further letter from authorities in Pyongyang inviting him to a final meeting to discuss [and for he to accept] rules by the North Korean military and the relevant telecommunications department.

This meeting will take place in December with activity planned for January or February 2016.

According to P5 telecoms, Dom will be permitted only three bands (20-15-10) likely using a multiband vertical from a secured place in Pyongyang with two government supervisors over-looking 24/7.

Activity will last for 5 days.

At the moment this is a solo expedition to the #1 Most wanted entity using SSB only. He is working hard behind the scenes to get one more op (CW) to join him.

Please realize this project is a work in progress and to understand that it may only be Dom who operates from North Korea.

More updates / website throughout 2015.

Any questions via Press Officer, Col MMONDX.

73 Col MMONDX for "P5-2016 Project" by 3Z9DX.

[Editorial comment: This sounds hopeless. Phone only into a non-directional antenna. But it does bring hope for follow on operations with more power,]

What is a Spot Worth?

By Steve Werner, AG4W

During the 2015 CQ WPX Phone contest I operated Single Operator Single Band Unassisted 40 Meters. A week later I decided to go back and see how many times I was spotted on DXScape during the contest and what was its effect on my rate. I decided to look at

how many QSOs I had 5 minutes before the spot and 5 minutes after the spot including the time of the spot. I was spotted 22 times during the contest. In some cases the spot made a big difference. That is what made me curious to get the data on the subject.

It seemed like I would be running at a certain run rate and all the sudden I became much more popular. 1 a minute 5, 2 a minute 10, and 3 a minute 15. It was interesting that twice the spot hurt my rate. Both times it was toward the end of a good run.

Date	Time	QSOs 5 min before	QSOs 5 min after	4QSO/min. times
15/3/28	0040	5	11	0040, 0051, 0233, 0235
	0251	10	14	0251, 0257, 0309, 0311, 0312
	0343	11	15	0344, 0350
	0404	8	11	0417, 0419
	0953	3	4	
	0905	4	6	
	1035	3	7	1101, 1229
	2226	0	5 Just started run	
15/3/29	0053	1	8 Just started run	0122, 0249
	0307	6	11	
	0317	10	13	

In conclusion on average the next 5 minutes after a spot your rate will improve by 50 percent. Spots are also

often times followed by maximum run rates which in this contest was 4 QSO/min.

A 160m Antenna Project

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

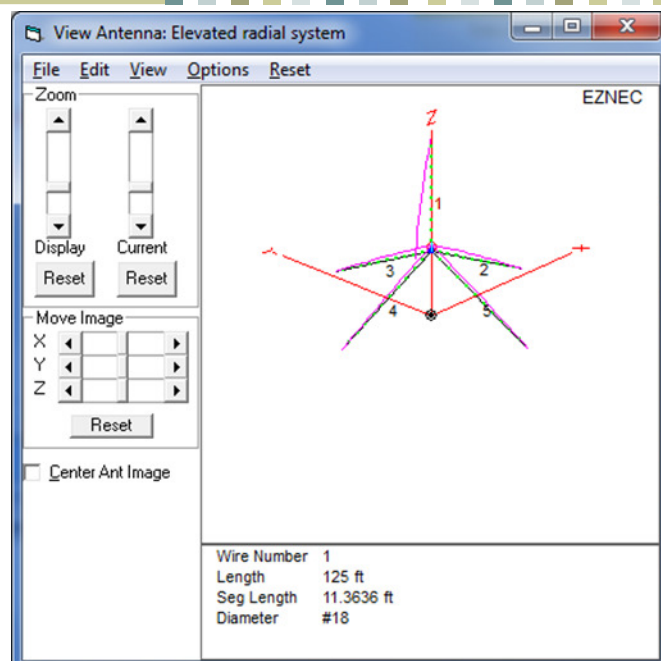
I've held this article for the April issue because to be honest, only a fool would build it.

Situation. Winter evening, the bands are dead, and thoughts wander to what to put up for 160m. My tall trees might support an inverted L but they're very close to the new Beverage. What about the tower? It's a 60' Rohn fold-over with an electric winch permitting easy access to the top. The mast extends another 10' but even 70' is too low for a horizontal antenna on 160.

Brainstorm. A balloon launched vertical with the feedpoint at the tower TOP and four resonant sloping radials extending to 6' above ground. Modeling suggests this would be a great antenna with about 1.2dBi of gain and

the sloping radials would present a feedpoint impedance near 60 ohms. A 6' balloon, barring winds has a lift capacity of 2.42 pounds and should keep the wire aloft for a week or so - certainly long enough for one of the weekend 160 contests.

Sounds great and a fun outdoor building project when the weather warms. The devil is in the details.

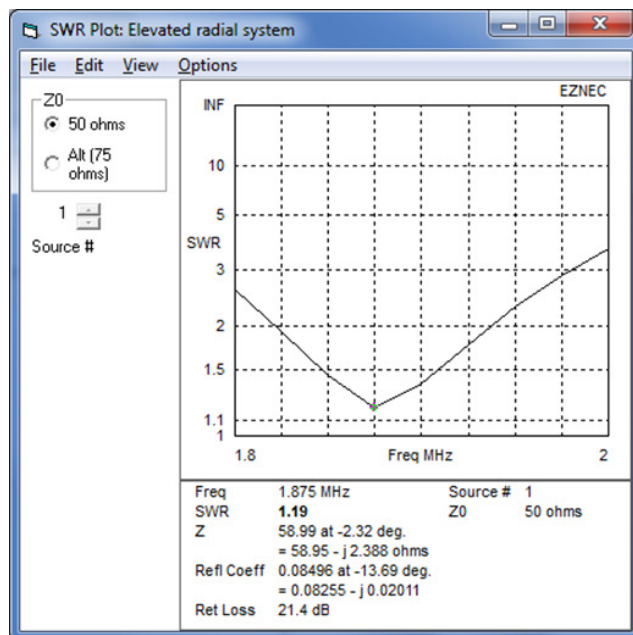
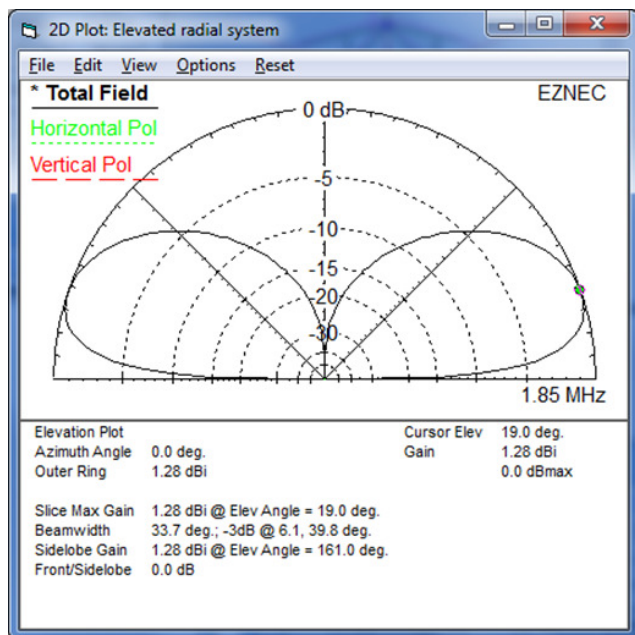


A 160m Antenna Project

(cont'd from p. 3)

MFR / Source	Description	Notes	# Reqd per Assy	MFR Part Number	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Home Depot	Radials, 14ga THHN Stranded, (4 x 130')	buy 500' roll	1		\$ 37.57	\$ 37.57
Hamfest	Vertical base with attachment points for radials	on-hand	1		\$ -	\$
Gigaparts	Insulators, lightweight plastic		5	JTBD OG	\$ 0.89	\$ 4.45
Gigaparts	135' SuperWire Stealth Teflon	vertical element	1	MS-135	\$ 39.00	\$ 39.00
Gander Mtn	Fishing Line, Braided, Power Pro, 80 lb x 150 yds	balloon tether	1	Spectra	\$ 22.99	\$ 22.99
Gander Mtn	Ball Bearing Swivel	balloon tether	2	SPRO	\$ 4.99	\$ 9.98
McCrary Welding Supply	Helium & 1 month tank rental		1		\$ 209.00	\$209.00
reusableballoons.com	Balloon, 6' reusable advertising balloon		1		\$ 169.00	\$169.00
	Misc coax & connectors for connecting antenna base to remote antenna switch atop tower on-hand				\$ -	\$ -
					Total:	\$491.99

When one starts adding up the material costs to make this happen, it becomes obvious that this science project antenna will never get off the ground.



DX Contests for April

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

OK/OM DX Contest, (SSB), (160-10M)

Apr. 11, 1200Z to Apr. 12, 1200Z

Exchange: RS plus serial; OK/OM
send RS plus county code (3 letters)

See: okomdx.crk.cz

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest, (CW), 160-10M

Apr. 11, 2100Z to Apr. 12, 2100Z

Exchange: RST, ITU zone

See Page 83, Apr. QST and gc.qst.ru/en

Japan Int'l. DX CW Contest (CW), (160-10M)

Apr. 11, 0700Z to Apr. 12, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ zone; JAs
send RST plus prefecture

See page 83, Apr. QST and
www.jidx.org

ES Open HF Championship, (CW & SSB), 80 & 40M

Apr 18, 0500Z to 0859Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

Note: Dupes OK once per hour

See Page 83, April QST and
www.erau.ee

Worked All Provinces of China, (CW & SSB), 80-10M

Apr, 18, 0600Z to April, 19, 0559Z

Exchange: RS(T), and serial (or prov-
ince abbr.)

See page 83, April QST and
www.mulandxc.org

YU DX Contest (CW), 160-10M

Apr. 18, 2100Z to Apr 19, 2100Z
(see website for times)

Exchange: RST plus ITU zone

See page 83, April QST and
www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs

Helvetia Contest, (CW, SSB, Dig.), 160-10M

Apr. 25, 1300Z to Apr. 26, 1259Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial # or
Swiss canton

See Page 83, Apr. QST and
www.uska.ch

SP DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10M

Apr. 25, 1200Z to Apr. 26, 1200Z

Exchange: RST, plus Serial # or SP
province

See Page 83, Apr. QST and
www.pkryg.org

OTHERS:

EA QRP Contest,

April 18, 1700Z to April 19, 1300Z

CQMM DX Contest,

April 18, 1200Z to April 19, 2359Z

Holyland DX Contest,

April 17, 2100Z to Apr. 18, 2100Z

TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest,

0000Z-2359Z, Apr 18



ARI International DX Contest

1200Z, May 2 to 1959Z, May 3

Dates & times often change or are mis-
printed in the journals; beware!

Chuck, N4NM

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Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

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